

Is Your Summer Camp Bat Proof?

Bats are frequently found in summer camp settings for several reasons. First, summer camps are often located in areas that provide suitable habitat for bats and other wildlife. Second, bats are most active during the warm summer months. Finally, some camp buildings are not built to be weather-tight and bats may find ways to get inside.

Rabid bats may show abnormal behavior including: being on the ground, landing on someone, and/or flying during the day. However, there is no way to tell if an animal is rabid simply by looking at it. **All contact with bats and other wild animals should be reported to the camp nurse.**

Cabins used for sleeping should be inspected every spring before the camp opens.

- Inspect attic space, rafters, porches, and walls for signs of roosting (sleeping or resting) bats, such as bat guano (feces) and crystallized urine, or a musty odor.
- Look for openings that bats could get through, including spaces larger than 5/8 inch by 7/8 inch and long thin slots larger than 1/4 inch by 2 inches.
- If evidence of bats is found during an inspection, the cabin should not be used for sleeping until the animals have been removed and the building batproofed.

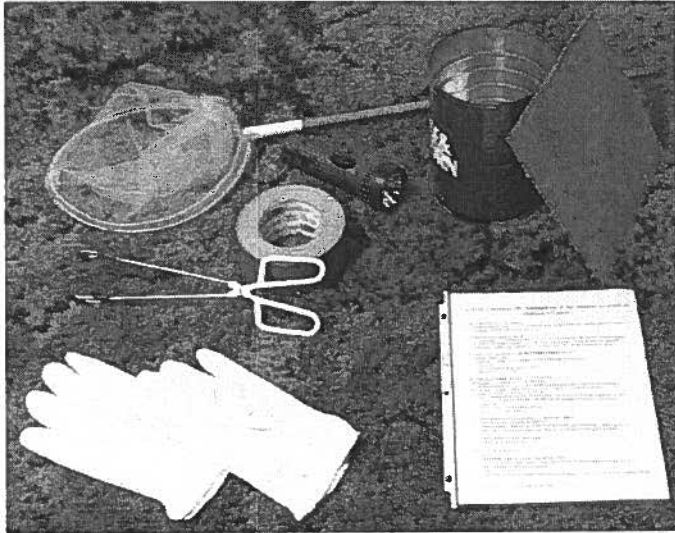
Camp buildings and cabins, particularly those used as sleeping quarters, should be **batproofed**.

- Bat proofing should take place during the month of May or from August 1 through mid-October when most bats will have left to hibernate or will have raised their young.
- Seal openings larger than 5/8 inch by 7/8 inch, or long thin slots larger than 1/4 inch by 2 inches.
- Use materials such as expanding spray-on foam, caulk, wire mesh, wood that fits tightly, steel wool (around pipes that enter buildings) etc., to seal gaps and holes.
- Make sure windows have screens, chimneys are capped, and electrical and plumbing openings are plugged.

For questions about bats and rabies, please contact your local board of health or call the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at 617-983-6800.

For more information about bats contact the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife at www.mass.gov/masswildlife or call 508-389-6300.

Capturing a Bat: What You Need and How to Do It



Items for a Bat Capture Kit

- **Gloves** – heavy, preferably pliable, thick leather.
- **Kitchen tongs or forceps** – 9" to 12" in length.
- **Coffee can or other similar container** – preferably with a tight-fitting lid.
- **Sheet of cardboard**
- **Tape**
- **Net** – with fine mesh and long handle.
- **Flashlight** – to locate the bat without scaring the animal and causing it to fly around in alarm.
- Guidelines for **How To Handle Bats at Summer Camp** or **What To Do If You Find a Bat In Your Home** – to determine when a bat should be captured.

When to capture a bat

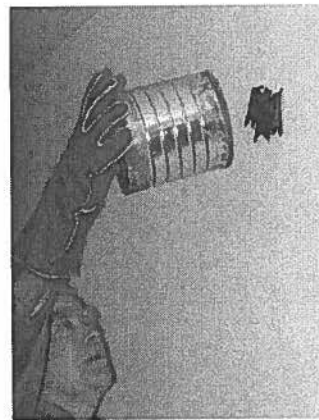
- If contact between a person and a bat may have occurred, even if no wounds can be seen.
- If a bat is found close to an unattended child, a person who was sleeping, a person with sensory or mental impairment, or a pet.

To obtain the items listed above, the following types of vendors are suggested:

- **Hardware store/home & garden center** – gloves, flashlight, batteries, tape, tongs
- **Medical supply company** – forceps
- **Forestry supply company** – fine mesh insect net

How to capture a bat on a wall

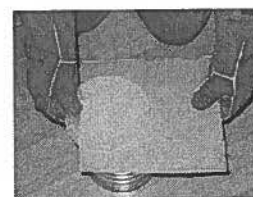
Use a container – Close the doors and windows to the room, then wait until the bat lands. Approach slowly, placing the container over the bat (1). Slide the cardboard between the wall and the container, lifting away from the wall as a unit (2). Slowly slide the cardboard off the container while simultaneously slipping on the appropriately sized lid (3a and b). Tape a lid to the container so the bat can not escape and label the container so it is not accidentally opened (4). Contact your local board of health.



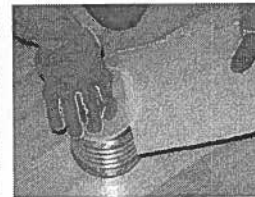
1



2



3a



3b



4

How to capture a bat in a high place or in flight

Use a net – Bats are very sensitive to movement around them. To capture a bat with a net you have to come from behind. Transfer the bat to a container with forceps or thick leather gloves.

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